



RS EXCHANGE REGIONAL SOLUTIONS

Monday, June 15th, 2026

Upcoming RSAC Meetings

South Central (Klamath and Lake Counties)

Wednesday, June 24th from 9:00-11:00am

[Virtual Link](#)

Mid-Valley (Marion, Polk, and Yamhill Counties)

Wednesday, June 24th from 1:30-3:30pm

[Virtual Link](#)



Regional Solutions Survey

Thanks to those of you who have already taken our survey! We appreciate you taking the time to share your perspective with the team. The survey remains open through July 3rd. If you haven't yet had the chance to fill it out, please click the link below to offer your thoughts!

[TAKE THE SURVEY HERE](#)

Regional Updates

Central – Scott Aycock

OHCS Director Bell Community Visits: OHCS staff and Executive Director Andrea Bell have been touring around the state visiting with communities and partners. During Director Bell's May visit to Central Oregon, she attended a local housing tour in Sisters, hearing directly from partners about affordable housing work in their community. Staff also joined a Land Trust Practicum Conference in Sisters where they talked with



local housing leaders about regional challenges, effective solutions, housing preservation and new construction, and much more. She and staff also visited an affordable development in the works in Prineville. This community land trust will bring 20 homes to the community for homeownership opportunities. Finally, the Director also joined the Central Oregon Regional Housing Council at their May meeting, and discussed OHCS programs and initiatives with Council members.

South Central – Scott Aycock

ODOT SCOEDD Strategic Plan – “The District”: The South Central Oregon Economic Development District serves Klamath and Lake Counties. After a period of significant staff turnover and some upheaval, the SCOEDD Board decided to engage in a Strategic Plan exercise. One initial outcome was a rebranding from SCOEDD to a dba as “The District”, with a new website coming soon. The District is also using a “District Roadmap Survey” to gather input from board members, partners, and key stakeholders to

help shape the organization's direction over the next two years. Feedback will help identify priorities, opportunities, partnerships, and the role The District should play in supporting economic development across South Central Oregon. This survey takes about ten minutes: [The District Roadmap Survey](#).

North Coast – Nate Stice

North Coast Regional Solutions Team Meeting with Beaver School and Port of Astoria: The North Coast Regional Solutions team met in an outreach meeting with project partners on the Beaver School redevelopment project in Tillamook County. The project would convert the long-vacant former Beaver school site into a mixed-use community asset with approximately 30 apartments, targeted to a range of workforce and moderate-income households, along with a county library branch, child care, after-school and summer programming, emergency shelter capacity, and community-serving uses such as a commercial kitchen and maker/work space. The discussion focused on the project's major implementation issues, including wastewater design for a site without municipal sewer, water system capacity, brownfield/asbestos abatement needs, land use pathway, and potential funding alignment with OHCS, DEQ, Business Oregon, and other partners. The project remains early but is a strong example of a rural community trying to reuse existing public infrastructure to meet multiple needs at once: housing, child care, emergency preparedness, and basic community services.

The team also had an in-depth discussion on the Port of Astoria, including cleanup from the recent spill at Pier 2 and the regulatory hurdles facing the Pier 2 project. The spill response is creating a significant financial challenge for the Port, with cleanup costs expected to exceed available insurance coverage and raising questions about whether any state or federal funding sources could help offset costs. Separately, the Pier 2 project continues to face a complicated regulatory path involving in-water work, permitting, environmental review, and coordination with multiple agencies.

Southern – Jessica LaBerge

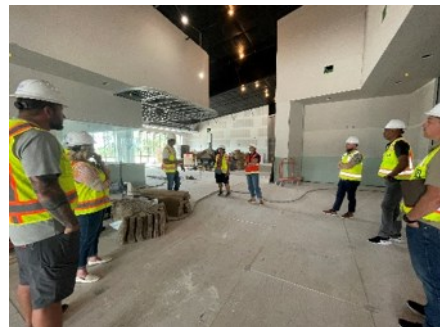
Southern RS Advisory Committee: On June 2nd the Southern RSAC met to hear a presentation from the Jackson County Community Long Term Recovery Group (JCC LTRG) and their transition into running the Rogue Valley Community Organizations Active in Disaster (RVCOAD). Matthew Havnear, Executive Director for the JCC LTRG, presented on both the

history and current operations for the JCC LTRG and RVCOAD. [The JCCLTRG was established in response to the 2020 Labor Day fires](#). They have and continue to host the unmet needs table for fire survivors and funders, provided many connection points amongst partner organizations, offered education and outreach within the community and advocate across levels of government – just to name of few things they have been instrumental in making happen in the last (almost) 6 years since the devastating fires. JCC LTRG has also delivered several publications including the [Standards of Community Care](#) and [Rogue Reimagined: The Regional Long-Term Disaster Recovery Plan](#). All of the plans & reports from JCCLTRG can be found [here](#).



The RVCOAD has been a volunteer organization since the late 90's and today provides coordination and response to emergencies in Jackson and Josephine counties. In the last 20 years since officially forming in 2006, the organization has seen over 1300 volunteers and continues to plug into local response. Most often rural Oregonians are served by volunteer organizations – similarly the COAD is looking for ways to create stable funding and a few staff to keep the Rogue Valley operationally ready for the next emergency. More RVCOAD information can be found [here](#).

After the RSAC meeting concluded, we toured the Jackson County Multi-Use Pandemic Response Center which is about 6 months from completion. Thank you to Jackson County for showing us around the new site. This is a new facility that has been built by the County using 97% local contractors, the footprint is roughly 120,000 sqft and its huge inside! The City of Central Point is leasing over 30% of the building for Parks and community space. When complete this fall, will be a location for sports teams – specifically youth basketball and volleyball, include conference rooms, commercial kitchens, be an evacuation and sheltering site for future emergencies and generally an impressive community space. Congrats to Jackson County and the progress to date – it's looking good!



Ashland RST Outreach: The Southern Regional Solutions Team had a full day in Ashland recently, beginning with a meeting of local leaders, economic development partners and tour of the Oregon Shakespeare Festival's (OSF) operations. Founded in 1935 by Angus L. Bowmer, OSF is

among the oldest and largest professional non-profit theaters in the US, and what a gem to have in our backyard! Fantastic [history on OSF and Ashland](#)



[here](#). While touring the many theaters, housing, and administration spaces I was struck by how intertwined both the city and the festival have been over the years. The season lasts from May to October, and this year they have a great line up which you can [view and book online](#).

After meeting with OSF we met with the Deputy City Manager Jordan Rooklyn, we heard of various initiatives and priorities for the city around economic development. It was good discussion covering topics such as the railroad district and urban renewal, updates with city hall, housing, healthcare and emergency services. One concern for the region has been statistics showing the population trending older with more healthcare needs, yet healthcare



institutions have been unstable in the Rogue Valley. In recent months, [Asante has warned of a \\$50M budget shortfall for 2027 and 300 worker layoffs](#), the [Medford Surgery Center closes at the end of June](#) and the [Ashland Community Hospital has seen services cut](#) – this speaks to a larger issue of declining private insurance coverage, rising costs and sustained operating losses.

Closing out the day was a visit and tour with Dan Cano, Executive Director for OHRA – Opportunities for Housing, Resources & Assistance in Ashland. OHRA is a non-profit homeless-services operation, and they run a former motel on the south end of town, moving people from crisis to stability. I was impressed with their approach and passion for advocating for those community members struggling or in transition. They partner with LaClinica on site, provide resource navigation and case management, provide roughly 300 meals each day for residents and community members, and are making a real difference in people's lives. A message we heard loud and clear from Mr. Cano was that we need to work with more employers to provide flexibility in getting those in transition or experiencing housing instability, job experience and opportunities to earn a living. More about OHRA can be found [here](#).

Northeastern — Courtney Crowell

Beef Northwest/Connect Oregon Issue: I was able to help a local agriculture business that was in the process of purchasing new infrastructure in the region and had run into an issue with ODOT and contract language. They were under a time crunch before the deal was finalized and needed ODOT to change some language. Luckily, ODOT was completely on board with the language that the company needed and understood the time constraints and everything worked out. These kinds of situations don't usually happen so easily so big kudos to ODOT for their flexibility and glad that we were able to help.

Wallowa Lake Dam Project: Great news over the past couple of weeks as ODFW has provided approval for the fish passage application for the Wallowa Lake Dam project. This is a monumental step in the project and represents nine years of work from the Governor's office and over 25 years of work from the local community. Big kudos to ODFW, the Wallowa Lake Irrigation District, CTUIR, the Nez Perce Tribe and Trout Unlimited for working with me over the past nine years to get to this outcome. This fish passage project will allow sockeye salmon to reach Wallowa Lake once again after being locked out for over 100 years. The next step in this project is to finalize all the other permits.

La Grande High School "Tiger Homes" Grand Opening: I attended the opening of a second townhome in La Grande that was built by the Tiger Homes program. This is a program within La Grande High School that combines students with local housing developers and contractors to build one home a year in the city. The first two townhomes (for a total of 4 units) were purchased by Grande Ronde Hospital to address workforce housing needs. La Grande high school has purchased the lot across the street and intends to build eight additional homes in the upcoming years. I was able to speak at the event and share congratulations from Governor Kotek and the excitement that this program provides for the entire community. I also was able to continue conversations with the regional CTE coordinator about how to encourage other high schools in the region to replicate this program. The photo below shows the townhome that the Tiger Homes project built this year.



Greater Eastern — Courtney Crowell

City of Boardman Interchange Issue Resolved: I've been working over the past week or so on an issue between the City of Boardman and ODOT related to a housing development and ODOT's need for the city to update the interchange on I-84. After some back and forth with ODOT, DLCD and HAPO we have found a path forward so that there shouldn't be any impact to the housing development and the city of Boardman is on a path to work on upgrading the interchange. Regional Solutions will continue to stay engaged should anything else come up as the city moves forward on their interchange upgrades.

Lakeside Foods Business Visit: Business Oregon and I visited Lakeside Foods in Weston, Oregon this week to learn more about the company and the opportunities and challenges they have moving forward. Lakeside recently bought the Smith Family Foods facility which produces frozen vegetables and employs about 200 people at the facility in Weston. Lakeside is a Wisconsin business and this is their only facility outside Wisconsin and Minnesota and it happens to be their largest facility as well. This facility has been around for a long time and has aging infrastructure which will be a challenge moving forward. The company is engaged with DEQ as they work through a permit renewal and Regional Solutions will be helping through that process.

Harney Groundwater Oregon Solutions Project: We had our third meeting of the Oregon Solutions Harney Groundwater Implementation group and we are starting to work towards developing a work plan for the long-term implementation group to begin implementing. The conversations are going well and Regional Solutions will continue to stay engaged as this project moves towards a longer term implementation collaborative group. We are now starting to move towards everyone identifying what commitments they can make towards the project so that we can develop the declaration of cooperation that will signal the end of the Oregon Solutions project.

West Glen Drinking Water Project (Boardman): Regional Solutions continues to work with Morrow County and the City of Boardman to make progress around providing drinking water from the City of Boardman to the West Glen neighborhood. Morrow County and the Clean Water Consortium presented information to the Boardman City Council this past month about possible options for how to manage the drinking water extension to this neighborhood. The council continues to request additional information to ensure they feel comfortable with the path forward, and has agreed to have city engineers work on a final engineering and design so we know exact

costs. The Clean Water Consortium is continuing to move forward on engagement with the neighborhood.

City of Burns Wastewater Project: Our Regional Solutions team continues to engage with the City of Burns on their ongoing wastewater capacity concerns. The good news is that the city has a plan and funding for addressing some of needed fixes to their system within the next six months. This short-term fix will allow the city to gain the needed capacity to allow the housing development that is currently building homes in the city to connect to their wastewater system. A local housing development has already constructed three homes with plans to build additional homes this upcoming year but were worried about the ability for the new homes to be connected to the sewer system. Luckily, we found a path that works for both the city and DEQ, however, now the work must begin. Our Regional Solutions team will continue to meet monthly with the city to ensure that the project moves along smoothly.

Metro – Kathy Hyzy

Tom McCall Waterfront Park:

In 2025, the Legislature allocated \$3 million to the charity arm of Portland Metro Chamber, part of which was to fund a maintenance, operations, and activation study of Tom McCall Waterfront Park. Home to festivals that draw thousands of Oregonians every summer, this park is a workhorse in many ways, yet also falls short of its potential. This beloved public asset lacks supportive



infrastructure for vendors, and other challenges have made it increasingly difficult for those festivals to continue operating; meanwhile the deficit of year-round amenities leaves the park underutilized. As part of this study, Oregon Solutions and PSU's Institute of Metropolitan Studies recently completed an assessment and released their initial recommendations on implementation opportunities—via a spin along the waterfront courtesy of the Portland Spirit! Their analysis showed that stakeholders are eager to activate the park, and that the framework is there to collaborate on plans for the park's future. Former Congressman Earl Blumenauer will be convening the steering committee to guide the work.

Portland Botanical Gardens/ McCormick & Baxter Site Tour: Some of the Metro Regional Solutions team got out of the office for a field trip to what will hopefully be the future home of Portland Botanical Gardens! PBG's executive director, Matt Taylor, showed us around the 59-acre former McCormick & Baxter creosoting site. Once a Superfund site, remediation was completed in 2005, and the property has been waiting for its future since then. After extensive public engagement, DEQ and PBG recently signed a Potential Purchaser Agreement (PPA). According to DEQ, "the agreement supports the beneficial reuse of the property while ensuring the environmental cleanup remedy remains protective of human health and the environment. Portland Botanical Gardens plans to develop botanical gardens, roughly 10 acres of public green space, a connection to the Willamette River Greenway Trail, public access to the Willamette River and educational and research spaces." PBG must also negotiate a separate PPA with the EPA, and has a year to meet the financial and other requirements outlined in the PPA with DEQ. You can learn more [here](#) and [here](#). Thanks for the site tour, Matt! The views and the vision are terrific, and it's great to see this project moving ahead.

Mid-Valley – Beth Wytoski

Swarming around the HIVE in Newberg: On June 1, I attended a motivating ribbon cutting for the Housing Innovation Village Experience. The event was attended by elected leaders, financial partners, and community advocates who have supported this work since its inception. Comments were offered by Newberg City Councilor Elise Yarnell Hollamon, SEDCOR's Abisha Romano, and the Missing Middle Housing Fund's Nathan Wildfire, Ryan Olsen, and Amy Snyder. Each speaker talked about the need for affordable workforce housing and what the project offers for Newberg, but the common thread was emphasizing the efficiency and efficacy when a city shifts to address each challenge with "how can we make this work?"



With that mindset, land use applications were submitted, subdivision approval was awarded, permits were received, and utility installation began all within about 8 weeks. The 10 homes in this development will provide new home ownership opportunities for Newberg's working families on College Street and feature cross-laminated timber, carbon-negative concrete, and several other design

elements focused on efficiency and affordability. The aggressive timeline for design and construction is expected to provide for a home show as early as October. There are also some ongoing needs for donations and affordable procurement of: landscaping plants and trees, HVAC, appliances, hardscaping, irrigation systems, lighting, fencing, decor, interior design material, signage, printing, event staffing, etc. and if you know someone who may be able to help, please have them reach out to the Missing Middle Housing Fund at Amy.Snyder@MissingMiddleHousing.fund

Applied Physics Technologies: I joined McMinnville and Yamhill County leaders for a really intriguing visit to APT. One thing that struck me immediately is the incredible precision on which their work depends as they manufacture high-purity electron and ion sources. They accomplish their goals with on-the-job training of deep technical knowledge and practiced technique. They are the WORLD's leading producer of commercial cathodes and their gallium liquid metal ion sources are the global standard in focused ion beam systems which rely on high brightness, long-life, reliability, and stability. We were able to take a close look at their crystals embedded in carbon which are used in X-ray devices as well as the materials used to make microscopes and other high tech equipment. APT is a great success story as they were able to leverage a \$1.2 million grant from Business Oregon to build their clean room, which was necessary to eliminate particle contamination - the leading cause of electron beam emission device failure. The addition of the clean room has allowed them to offer new lines of product which produced revenue growth and 30 new jobs.



Center Street Bridge Project: Phase one will improve earthquake readiness by enlarging the bridge supports, strengthening the river span and ramps, and replacing the waterline that is attached. This will be a multi-year project, scheduled to begin later this year. ODOT is gathering information about travel options that could affect detours and other considerations. If you frequently use this bridge, please consider filling out a brief survey to inform the planning process. It can be found [here](#).

Resources and Opportunities

Governor's Early Childhood Care & Learning Systems Roundtable Survey

You are invited to provide input to the Roundtable, which has been charged with advancing statewide expansion of access to affordable, high-quality, equitable 0-3 care and preschool options, regardless of zip code, through scalable, sustainable strategies.

Phase 1 of the Roundtable is focused on Improving and strengthening existing programs to make the best use of existing resources. Phase 1 is taking place from April through September, 2026.

You can provide input to inform the Roundtable's recommendations by completing the Roundtable Survey. The survey will close on Friday, August 7.

- [English Survey](#)
- [Spanish Survey](#)

The survey seeks your input on making the best use of existing resources to strengthen access for families, workforce support, facilities & infrastructure, and quality assurance/ agency operations. Phase 2 of the Roundtable will focus on infant-toddler care, and Phase 3 will focus on expanding access to preschool care. There will be additional opportunities to provide input in those phases.

ReOregon Down Payment Assistance & Counseling to Disaster-Impacted Households

Renters affected by the 2020 Labor Day Disasters and who are trying to buy their first home may be eligible for ReOregon's [Housing Support Services](#). This program can help with:

- Down payment assistance to help with closing costs and a down payment, opening the potential for an affordable mortgage payment.
- Housing counseling for families navigating financial or housing challenges.

To apply, contact a [community action agency](#) closest to you. One application covers all programs you may qualify for.